

Contents

Preface

ix

Acknowledgments

xxiii

Introduction

1

PART ONE

Cosmos and Society

9

One

Ritual and the Social Order

11

Two

The Mambai and Their Land

24

Three

The Mythic Origins of Colonial Rule

51

Four

The House as a Source of Life

66

Contents

Five	
The Renewal of Life through Marriage	
81	

Six	
The Ritual Community	
98	

Seven	
Divinity and the Social Order	
133	

PART TWO	
Rituals of White and Black	
153	

Eight	
White Ritual: The Path of Rain	
155	

Nine	
White Ritual: The Meeting at the Spring	
178	

Ten	
Black Ritual: The Journeys of the Dead	
200	

Conclusion	
236	

Notes	
247	

References	
275	

Index	
281	